



# UCJCI UPDATE

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THE OFFICIAL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



**CHILDREN INVOLVED IN CREATIVE EXPERIENCES AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT ELSMLIE MEMORIAL IN GRAND CAYMAN.**

## ON THE INSIDE

- SUMMER ACTIVITIES - OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN
- COUNCIL NEWS
  - CELEBRATION IN SRMC
  - MISSION POSSIBLE: REVITALIZED MINISTRY IN NERMC
- WORSHIP AND PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

## UCJCI UPDATE

UPDATE IS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED CHURCH IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THE PUBLICATION PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT THE DENOMINATION, NEWS OF HAPPENINGS IN REGIONS, MATERIAL TO FACILITATE WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY, ACTIVITIES FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRAYER, AND SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

OVER THE YEARS OUR CONGREGATIONS HAVE SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE SUMMER PERIOD TO IMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES AIMED AT CHILDREN AND YOUTH. WHILE SOME PARENTS HAVE MANY OPTIONS TO OCCUPY THE TIME OF THEIR CHILDREN DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY OUR CONGREGATIONS CONTAIN THE VITAL ELEMENTS OF INTRODUCING AND NURTURING IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. CONGREGATIONS CREATE ENVIRONMENTS AND PROVIDE SPACES TO CAPTURE THE ATTENTION OF THE CHILDREN OF OUR NATIONS WHILE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS AND GUARDIANS. **READ ABOUT THIS ON PAGES 2 AND 3**



**COMMENDATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS...PAGE 9**



# SUMMER – RICH WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN

Summer presents rich opportunities for engaging our children. This engagement encompasses ministry which has the potential of being far-reaching. Our congregations in UCJCI seize opportunities for activities which are fun, educational, evangelistic and nurturing and are designed to impact the lives of children who attend our churches as well as others who reside in surrounding communities. Competent and committed leaders design creative programmes which are often wholistic and take advantage of the extended time which may be used to capture the attention of our children. In so doing, they also partner with parents and guardians to have their children involved in wholesome activities while they may be away from formal education.

Vacation Bible School is one of the ways in which UCJCI evangelises and nurtures children in our congregations and communities. It is part of the strategic priority of Witness. Bearing witness to the love of God is a priority for all believers. Witness incorporates work among Children and Youth; Evangelism, Education, and Outreach.

Summer camps provide captive audiences of children to be taught the Christian faith and explore faith in age-appropriate ways. They experience fellowship, building of friendship and other personal, social and professional development opportunities in residential settings.



The following are snapshots and snippets of ministry with children in Jamaica and Cayman. It is our hope that these will inspire our readers to urge the leadership of their own congregations to be imaginative in creating ministry opportunities with children which could include VBS and other activities, as well as helping children to attend camps. In addition to lobbying, it is important to participate in making these programmes a possibility.



# JOHN GRAY MEMORIAL VBS - A STELLAR SUCCESS!



The John Gray Memorial United Church had its VBS from July 24-28, 2023, with an average of 55 children and youth in attendance. The ministry was well supported by a total of 29 volunteers.



This year's VBS was entitled Stellar, a space-themed programme, offering the children a week full of exciting adventures, teaching them how to "Shine Jesus' Light" to the world.



# JOHN GRAY MEMORIAL VBS – A STELLAR SUCCESS...con'td!



The daily activities included Bible adventures, songs, games, snacks, and an 'Imagination Station' where kids could make surprising discoveries. Special thanks to everyone who offered to support the youth leadership in their efforts and the volunteers for making the VBS a stellar success.





# SUMMER CAMPS IN CAYMAN- 'KETCH DI FIYAH'

The CIRMC 2023 Summer Camps came to a close on Sunday, July 23, 2023, with the Teen's Camp participation in the morning worship service at the Elmslie Memorial United Church. The overall theme was 'Ketch Di Fyah – Reignited by the Spirit' and the material was developed by the YLNE Camp Planning Team in reflection on the current Synodical period's theme, 'Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit.'

## Day 1 – Introduction – Understanding the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The Campers were introduced to the theme "Ketch di Fyah" by laying the foundation for an understanding of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives. If they were to be Reignited by the Spirit, they need to know more about the Spirit. Key verse: Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord."

## Day 2 – FIRE: Purify & Refine

Campers had the opportunity to better understand the importance and necessity of the Purifying and Refining ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Key verse: Gal 5:16 "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

## Day 3 – WIND: Power & Guidance

Day 3 helped campers to learn why and how to rely on the Holy Spirit in their lives for Power and Guidance. Key verse: John 3:8 "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."



The Children's Camp at Webster Memorial UC



Arts and Crafts



Cooking and Baking



# Summer Camps - 'Ketch di fiyah' cont'd



Developing musical skills

## Day 4 - WATER: Salvation & Sustenance

Through the day's theme, campers explored the link between water as the main source of life, and Jesus as the source of Spiritual Life. Key verse: John 4:14 "But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

## Day 5 - OIL: Anointing & Serving

On the last day, campers were challenged to be Filled with the Spirit and to go as Christ's Ambassadors into the world to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. Key verse: Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoner."



The Camp Leadership Team headquarters in the Council Office

Other camp activities included daily morning physical exercises, breakfast and lunch duties, praise party, creative activities (dance, music, photography, cooking/baking, art & craft), and a visit to the beach. In all, thirty-two children and twenty-seven teens attended under the leadership of thirty-seven volunteers.



The Teens' Camp at Elmslie Memorial UC



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT CEDAR VALLEY IN NERMC



Scenes from Cedar Valley VBS held July 17-23, 2023 coordinated by Vice-Chair for Children and Youth, Mrs. Karen-Ann Harris McLean and Vice-Chair for Mission, Mrs. Audrey Francis. The NERMC team worked with teachers at Cedar Valley Primary School.





# Council News

## Celebrations in Southern Region

### GOVERNOR GENERAL AWARDEES



The Southern Regional Mission Council celebrates Governor General Awards to a number of persons in the Knox College community of the United Church family. Pastor Alexander Bourne was awarded the Governor General's Achievement Award for Excellence in July 2023. Pastor Bourne serves as Principal for Knox College and was licensed as a Lay Pastor in August of 2022. As he continues to blaze a trail of excellence, he also shines in service for the Lord.





# Council News

## Celebrations in Southern Region

### GOVERNOR GENERAL AWARDEES



Current head boy of Knox College, Dwayne Blake (above left) and past student Khalil Hutchinson (above right) were also awarded.



Knox College celebrates awardees pose with H.E. The Most Honourable Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica ON, GCMG, CD.



# Mission Cedar Valley

## CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

Cedar valley is seated around thriving communities with construction of houses going on at massive rate. This makes it a very viable and fertile ground for ministry and mission.

### Key issues:

- No worship service has taken place there for a period of over five years.
- The Sanctuary and furnishings are in a deplorable state.
- There are at least three surviving members of the Congregation who are quite advanced in age.
- The existence of the school on the property provides an advantage to revive ministry there.
- Members of the community passionately expressed their dissatisfaction with the situation.
- The community received the news of our wanting to revive ministry there with a great sense of excitement.
- The continued use of the Church cemetery without ministry taking place there has not been received well by the community.
- The Church is located in a community which is not saturated with a lot of Churches.

**NERMC introduced a mission initiative for the region at the Ash Wednesday Day of Fellowship to engage in mission in Cedar Valley, St. Mary.**

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WAY FORWARD:

- The Property and Finance teams be given responsibility for the restoration of the sanctuary and the Evangelism team focus on restoring ministry in the context.
- Tent to be acquired to be used for groundbreaking and initial reopening services as a priority.
- Weekly Council Intercession sessions via Zoom at least a month before the official opening service.
- Community spiritual mapping, prayer and fasting and intercessory prayer session on the Church grounds before the crusade.
- Fourteen days evangelism crusade after intercession.
- Official opening service of Cedar Valley mission after the crusade.
- Assign congregations after the official launch to conduct services there for an initial period of four months after which an evaluation will be done to determine whether to hand over the mission to the Charge.
- The cost of doing ministry by each assigned congregation be borne by the respective congregation scheduled for each Sunday.
- A roster will be created for congregations to participate in this mission each Sunday over the four months.
- Identify and, where possible, train altar call workers and Counselors for the Crusades.
- A promotional video to be made available at least four months before the commencement of the official activities.
- Mission action teams to be formed, responsibilities, and activities stated, resources needed and budget developed to execute teams' duties.
- Increase the Cedar Valley mission team.



# Our Homes are Places of Worship



## AUGUST – REALIGN THE HOME

Our fellowship with God enables our communion with others. What happens in the home affects the society, hence God in Jesus Christ must be the Head of the home in order for the family to dwell together in peace.

### Theme this Week:

### Love Dwells Richly in the Realigned Home

### Suggested Scriptures:

**Matthew 14:22–33**

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28

Psalms 105: 1–6, 16–22, 45b

Romans 10:5–15

### The Spirit Realigns the Home

- How deep is your love for family?
- Sibling rivalry is real in some households. How do we help families to come to terms with each other?
- Matthew 14–22–33– ‘Lord, save me’ is a guttural cry from Peter and it echoes in our hearts today. Are there experiences in the home that cause us to feel the need to implore the Lord to save us?
- Can the home become a destroyer of faith? If so, how do we live? How do we keep walking on the water in faith?

## Let us pray for

- Rev. Dr. Richmond Nelson who is unwell
- Mrs. Shernett Smith whose brother died last week and for her brother-in-law who has been hospitalized
- The leadership of our camps, Vacation Bible School and other summer activities
- Sustaining faith for children and youth who have made commitments to Christ during our camps, Vacation Bible School and other activities during the summer period.
- The family of the late McFarlane Conolly of East End United in Cayman
- Vulnerable groups who are seriously impacted by the intense heat.
- That all who choose to take time away from work during the summer will experience restful and refreshing times.
- Our preparedness and safety during the hurricane season.



# BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



REV. EUTHMAN WRAY

AUGUST 13

*May the blessings of the  
Lord be on you*





**UNITED CHURCH YOUNG ADULTS  
ACTION MOVEMENT**



# UCYAAAM CAMP CONFERENCE 2023

**THEME**

**ALIVE! CHRIST CENTERED, LIFE  
FOCUS, LIFE GIVING**

**COST:**

Adults - \$10,000.00

Children - \$6,000.00

Private Rooms - \$13,000.00

Daily Rates Are Available

**Register Online**

**Call: +18765963729**

**17-20 AUGUST 2023**

**VENUE: Madge Saunders Conference Center  
Tower Isle St. Mary**





**SYNODICAL THEME:**  
**Rooted, Resilient: Re-ignited by the Spirit**  
(Return, Reconnect, Realign, Re-ignite)

**OUR VISION**

*Touching Lives, Nurturing Disciples, Seeking Transformation  
through Christ*

**The United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands**  
(Congregational, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian)

12 Carlton Crescent, Kingston 10 Jamaica, W. I.  
Tel: 876 9268734; ♦ E-mail: [synod@ucjci.com](mailto:synod@ucjci.com) ♦ Website: [www.ucjci.com](http://www.ucjci.com)

**MODERATOR**

**Rt. Rev. Gary Harriott**

**GENERAL SECRETARY**

**Rev. Norbert Stephens**

**REGIONAL DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARIES**

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**Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble Bloomfield**

North Eastern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Rose Wedderburn**

Southern Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Janet McConnell**

Western Regional Mission Council  
**Mrs. Mauleen Henry**